

**Listing of the Claims**

1. (original) A method comprising:  
  
generating an interrupt weighted average (IWA) for each of a plurality of processors based on interrupt dispatch information associated with the plurality of processors; and  
  
identifying a target processor from the plurality of processors based on the IWAs to dispatch an interrupt.
2. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein generating the IWA for each of the plurality of processors based on the interrupt dispatch information associated with the plurality of processors comprises generating the IWA for each of the plurality of processors based on at least one of a processor interrupt service age level, a processor interrupt loading history level, and a processor interrupt availability level.
3. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein generating the IWA for each of the plurality of processors based on the interrupt dispatch information associated with the plurality of processors comprises identifying a weight associated with at least one of a processor interrupt service age level, a processor interrupt loading history level, and a processor interrupt availability level.
4. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein generating the IWA for each of the plurality of processors based on the interrupt dispatch information associated with the plurality of processors comprises storing a weight of one or more interrupt load balancing parameters, and calculating the IWA for each of the plurality of processors based the stored weight of the one or more interrupt load balancing parameters.

5. (previously presented) A method comprising:  
generating an interrupt weighted average (IWA) for each of a plurality of processors  
based on interrupt dispatch information associated with the plurality of processors; and  
identifying a target processor from the plurality of processors to dispatch an interrupt  
by identifying a processor associated with the highest IWA.

6. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein identifying  
the target processor from the plurality of processors based on the IWAs to dispatch the  
interrupt comprises identifying the target processor from the plurality of processors based on  
the IWAs to dispatch one of a hardware interrupt and a software interrupt.

7. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 1, further comprising  
generating an interrupt message to send to the target processor.

8. (original) A machine readable medium storing instructions, which when executed, cause a machine to:

generate an interrupt weighted average (IWA) for each of a plurality of processors based on interrupt dispatch information associated with the plurality of processors; and

identify a target processor from the plurality of processors based on the IWAs to dispatch an interrupt.

9. (previously presented) The machine readable medium as defined in claim 8, wherein the instructions, when executed, cause the machine to generate the IWA for each of the plurality of processors based on the interrupt dispatch information associated with the plurality of processors by generating the IWA for each of the plurality of processors based on at least one of a processor identifier, a processor interrupt service age level, a processor interrupt loading history level, and a processor interrupt availability level.

10. (previously presented) The machine readable medium as defined in claim 8, wherein the instructions, when executed, cause the machine to generate the IWA for each of the plurality of processors based on the interrupt dispatch information associated with the plurality of processors by identifying a weight associated with at least one of a processor interrupt service age level, a processor interrupt loading history level, and a processor interrupt availability level.

11. (previously presented) A machine readable medium storing instructions, which when executed, cause a machine to:

generate an interrupt weighted average (IWA) for each of a plurality of processors based on interrupt dispatch information associated with the plurality of processors; and

identify a target processor from the plurality of processors to dispatch an interrupt by identifying a processor associated with the highest IWA.

12. (previously presented) The machine readable medium as defined in claim 8, wherein the instructions, when executed, cause the machine to identify the target processor from the plurality of processors based on the IWAs to dispatch the interrupt by identifying the target processor from the plurality of processors to dispatch one of a hardware interrupt and a software interrupt.

13. (previously presented) The machine readable medium as defined in claim 8, wherein the instructions, which when executed, cause the machine to generate an interrupt message to send to the target processor.

14. (previously presented) The machine readable medium as defined in claim 8, wherein the machine readable medium comprises one of a programmable gate array, application specific integrated circuit, erasable programmable read only memory, read only memory, random access memory, magnetic media, and optical media.

15. (previously presented) An apparatus comprising:

an interrupt load balancing policy register (ILBPR) to store one or more weights corresponding to one or more interrupt load balancing parameters;

a plurality of target processor control registers (TPCRs) to store interrupt dispatch information associated with a plurality of processors;

a weighted average generator to generate an interrupt weighted average (IWA) for each of the plurality of processors based on the weight corresponding to the one or more interrupt load balancing parameters and the interrupt dispatch information associated with the plurality of processors; and

a target processor selector to identify a target processor from the plurality of processors based on the IWAs to dispatch an interrupt.

16. (previously presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 15, wherein the weight corresponding to one or more interrupt load balancing parameters comprises at least one of a processor interrupt service age weight, a processor interrupt loading history weight, and a processor interrupt availability weight.

17. (previously presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 15, wherein the interrupt dispatch information comprises at least one of a processor identifier, a processor interrupt service age level, a processor interrupt loading history level, and a processor interrupt availability level.

18. (previously presented) An apparatus comprising:

an interrupt load balancing policy register (ILBPR) to store one or more weights corresponding to one or more interrupt load balancing parameters;

a plurality of target processor control registers (TPCRs) to store the interrupt dispatch information associated with a plurality of processors;

a weighted average generator to generate an interrupt weighted average (IWA) for each of the plurality of processors based on the weight corresponding to the one or more interrupt load balancing parameters and the interrupt dispatch information associated with the plurality of processors; and

a target processor selector to identify a target processor from the plurality of processors based on the IWAs to dispatch an interrupt, wherein the target processor comprises a processor associated with the highest IWA from the plurality of processors.

19. (previously presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 15, wherein the target processor selector generates an interrupt message to send to the target processor.

20. (previously presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 15, wherein the interrupt comprises one of a hardware interrupt and a software interrupt.

21. (original) A processor system comprising:  
an input/output controller programmed to request an interrupt; and  
a multi-processor programmable interrupt controller (MPIC) programmed to generate an interrupt weighted average (IWA) for each of a plurality of processors based on interrupt dispatch information associated with the plurality of processors, and to identify a target processor from the plurality of processors based on the IWAs to dispatch the interrupt request.

22. (previously presented) The processor system as defined in claim 21, wherein the MPIC is programmed to generate the IWA for each of the plurality of processors based on at least one of a processor identifier, a processor interrupt service age level, a processor interrupt loading history level, and a processor interrupt availability level.

23. (previously presented) The processor system as defined in claim 21, wherein the MPIC is programmed to store weight of the interrupt dispatch information, and to calculate the IWA for each of the plurality of processors based the stored weight of the interrupt dispatch information.

24. (previously presented) The processor system as defined in claim 21, wherein the MPIC is programmed to identify a weight associated with at least one of a processor interrupt service age level, a processor interrupt loading history level, and a processor interrupt availability level corresponding to the plurality of processors.

25. (previously presented) A processor system comprising:  
an input/output controller programmed to request an interrupt; and  
a multi-processor programmable interrupt controller (MPIC) programmed to generate an interrupt weighted average (IWA) for each of a plurality of processors based on interrupt dispatch information associated with the plurality of processors, and to identify a target processor from the plurality of processors based on the IWAs to dispatch the interrupt request, wherein the MPIC is programmed to identify a processor associated with the highest IWA.

26. (previously presented) The processor system as defined in claim 21, wherein the MPIC is programmed to generate an interrupt message to send to the target processor.

27. (previously presented) The processor system as defined in claim 21, wherein the interrupt comprises one of a hardware interrupt and a software interrupt.



28. (currently amended) A method comprising:

determining values for a plurality of interrupt load balancing parameters for each of a plurality of processors;

applying a load balancing policy to the values for the plurality of interrupt load balancing parameters in response to an interrupt request and generating an interrupt weighted average to form a plurality of values indicative of an interrupt-related performance of each of the plurality of processors; and

identifying one of the plurality of processors as a target processor to receive an interrupt based on the values indicative of the interrupt-related performance of each of the plurality of processors.

29. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 28, wherein determining values for the plurality of interrupt load balancing parameters for each of the plurality of processors comprises determine values for at least one of a processor interrupt service age parameter, a processor interrupt loading history parameter, and a processor interrupt availability parameter.

30. (cancelled)

31. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 1, further comprising generating the IWA in response to an interrupt request.

32. (previously presented) The machine readable medium as defined in claim 8, wherein the instructions, when executed, cause the machine to generate the IWA in response to an interrupt request.

33. (previously presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 15, wherein the weighted average generator generates the IWA in response to an interrupt request.

34. (previously presented) The processor system as defined in claim 21, wherein the MPIC generates the IWA in response to an interrupt request.